

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 L-03 SCA-01 PPT-02 INSE-00

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DRC-01 /042 W

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R 182359Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9306

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS, PBOR, SGEN, MX

SUBJECT: AMENDMENT OF VISA AGREEMENT

REF: A. MEXICO 9437 B. STATE 244099 C. STATE 245900

1. EMBOFFS MET DECEMBER 18 WITH FONSECRETARIAT OFFICIALS FURTHER TO DISCUSS PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF VISA AGREEMENT. DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR DIPLOMATIC SERVICES, RAUL VALDES, WHO SPOKE FOR MEXICANS, SUCCINCTLY PRESENTED GOM "DOUBTS" WHICH HAD CAUSED RABASA TO SUGGEST FURTHER STUDY (REFTEL A).

A. MEXICANS WONDERED WHETHER WORDING OF NOTES, AS AGREED TO IN ADVANCE, MADE SUFFICIENTLY CLEAR THAT ARTICLE I OF BOTH PARTS OF VISA AGREEMENT (USG NOTE AND GOM RESPONSE) WERE TO BE DELETED. EMBOFFS AGREED THAT MORE SPECIFIC WORDING MIGHT BE DEvised TO FORESTALL ANY POSSIBLY AMBIGUITY.

B. A SECOND MEXICAN RESERVATION RELATED TO QUESTION OF INITIATIVE IN THIS MATTER. EMBOFFS POINTED OUT THAT PROPOSED EXCHANGE TO AMEND AGREEMENT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN OUTGROWTH OF MEXICAN SUGGESTION (REFTEL C). MEXICANS CENTERED BY REFERRING TO EARLIER DISCUSSIONS, CITING, FOR EXAMPLE, A 1971 MEM RANDUM IN WHICH USG HAD PROPOSED THIS ACTION. ACCORDINGLY, THEY REQUESTED THAT USG BE INITIATING PARTY IN EXCHANGE TO DELETE ARTICLE I. (COMMENT: EMBASSY BELIEVES GOM'S PROBLEM IN THIS RESPECT IS STRICTLY ONE OF A POLITICAL NATURE -- I.E. THEY SEEMINGLY ANTICIPATE ADVERSE REACTION ON PART OF

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OFFICIALS WHO WOULD BE EVEN MORE CRITICAL IF IT WERE TO APPEAR THAT

ARTICLE I PRIVILEGES WERE BEING TAKEN AWAY AS RESULT OF GOM INITIATIVE).

C. MEXICANS REOPENED QUESTION OF HOW TO DEAL WITH IBWC PERSONNEL (REFTEL B). AFTER REVIEWING WORDING OF ARTICLE 20 OF 1944 WATER TREATY, THEY INFORMALLY REACHED CONSENSUS THAT SPECIFIC REFERENCE MIGHT BE INAPPROPRIATE, SINCE EXCHANGE OF AMENDING NOTES COULD NOT IN ANY WAY ALTER BILATERAL TREATY WHICH, IN ANY CASE, WOULD TAKE PRECEDENCE. HENCE, IT IS PROBABLE THAT GOM WILL PREFER TO HANDLE IBWC EXEMPTION THROUGH CLARIFYING STATEMENT IN INSTRUCTIONS GIVEN TO MEXICAN IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES.

2. EMBOFFS PROMISED TO CONSULT DEPARTMENT ON ALL POINTS RAISED. WE ARE FORWARDING BY SEPTTEL SUGGESTED REDRAFT OF NOTE. UNLESS THERE ARE OVERRIDING TECHNICAL LEGAL PROBLEMS OF WHICH WE ARE UNAWARE, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WE ACQUIESCE TO MEXICAN DESIRE THAT USG INITIATE EXCHANGE. SINCE WE WILL BE PRIME BENEFACITOR OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT, THIS CONCESSION TO MEXICAN POLITICAL SENSITIVITY SEEMS TO BE A LOW PRICE TO PAY IF, AS HOPED, OUR INITIATING EXCHANGE FINALLY WILL BRING ABOUT AMENDMENT PROCESS.  
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## Message Attributes

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